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# Serbia's Cup of Sorrow



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## SERBIA'S CUP OF SORROW

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*"T*OWARDS such a population all humanity and softness is highly out of place, indeed positively detrimental . . . .

"I therefore order that during the whole operation the greatest severity, the greatest harshness, and the greatest distrust is to prevail towards everyone."

"Armed Serbs without uniform are simply to be shot down, and anyone who on this case shows mercy will be punished most severely."

"In villages hostages to be taken; every house where weapons are found to be destroyed; and if its occupants are not to be found, the next best inhabitants must supply information, and if they refuse this with obvious intention, are to be hanged."

"Everyone who is met outside the village, especially in woods, is to be looked on as nothing else save komitadjis who have hidden their weapons somewhere; we have no time to look for these; such people if they seem to be in any way suspicious are to be shot down."

The foregoing are extracts from "Direktiven für das Verhalten gegenüber das Bevölkerung in

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Serbien." (Orders for behaviour towards the Population in Serbia.) Issued by the 9th Austrian Corpskomando in August, 1914.

Here in its stark simplicity is laid bare the origin of some of the horrors that Serbia has had to endure.

No other nation in the welter of the world-war, great or small, has endured so much as Serbia, and yet the proud soul of this little people without a country rides triumphant above her sorrows.

War, Famine, Disease—the tragic triumvirate has stalked through Serbia and laid heavy hands on its people for over three years. To-day the remnants of the Serbian people number only two-thirds of the pre-war population.

Every Briton is in honour bound to help save the Serbian race from extinction. Everyone of us should do something to support the Serbian people and comfort them in their sorrows until that great day when we shall restore to them the country now trampled under the iron heel of the enemy.



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## ELEMENTAL NEEDS

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**N**O living Briton can wake memory's chords and bring back scenes of this fair land of ours under the heel of an invader.

No man has the remembrance of a whole people fleeing before the advancing hosts, the roads black with a moving multitude, women and children dying by the roadside, terror and tribulation on every hand, crops blackened by fire, cities and towns made festering heaps of rubble-strewn death. No man has this memory, so how shall one realise the plight of the Serbians *driven right out of their country*?

Money is worthless during the retreat of a nation—all the gold in Christendom is below the value of a loaf of bread; for Starvation is no respecter of persons. Rich and poor alike fall before its ruthless march.

And so it is with the Serbs that their immediate needs are elemental in their simplicity—Food, Covering and Medical Aid.

For these things they depend upon outside aid; they look to the peoples of the Great Powers, still dwelling in security, to help them.

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## FOOD AND COVERING

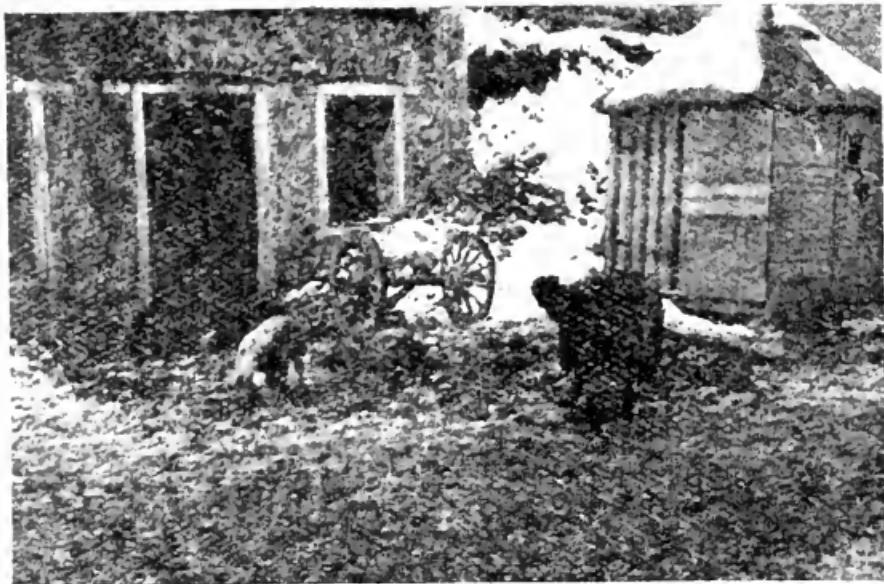
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HERE is a photograph of a poor Serbian woman taken during the great retreat.

Her basket is empty, her little home that she kept bright with loving hands lies far behind her, despoiled and destroyed by drink-sodden Austrian soldiers. The clothes on her back are all she has, and they, ere the end of her journeying is reached, will be but sorry rags. Her head is sunk on a bundle of clothes, whose tiny wearer was buried an hour or so ago a mile back on the wayside. A dull ache at her side tells of a wanton Austrian and a bayonet thrust. It needs attention, and—*there are no doctors, no nurses, to give her aid.*

That is the picture of but one woman on the great retreat. There were hundreds of thousands of old men, women and





children, and an army of battle-wracked, weary soldiers. By the time they had passed the borders of their country into a haven of safety, their three great needs Food, Covering and Medical Aid, were even more intensified.

Above is another photograph—an authenticated record. It brings home to us in the universal language of illustration, the terrible plight to which the Serbian soldiery were reduced. A soldier, famished by lack of food, weary from fighting and forced marches, seeks to still the pangs of ravenous hunger by searching in the pigstye for a few grains that the pigs have disdained. It is but an incident on the terrible retreat to the Adriatic which was forced upon the stricken Serbians. They reached the coast at last after fearful sufferings, passing over mountains, through rivers and swamps of a wild, forsaken country, and at last were shipped to Corfu,

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their aged King, their young, steadfast Prince, and all the leaders of the Nation with them.

To-day, Serbia, although bereft of a country, is still a *nation*. Her soul rides triumphant above the welter of ruthless war; her men fight side by side with British and French in Salonica. To-day there are sick and wounded soldiers in Corfu; there are half-starved prisoners of war—thousands of them—in Austrian hands; there are parentless children; there are disease-stricken civilians waiting with mute, pathetic patience for aid. Can you let their sufferings pass unsalved? can you turn a deaf ear to this appeal? or will you let your heart guide your hand and give Serbia your aid? Read on, and see how you *can* help—how easy it is for you, who sit beneath your roof in comfort, to give Food, Covering and Medical Aid to those who so sorely need it.



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## THE SALVING OF SERBIA

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“THE salving of Serbia falls under two heads: Serbia must remain a *nation*; Serbia’s *country* must be wrested from the invaders. It may be many months before the Allies bring the enemy to his knees, and it therefore follows that the urgent duty of the moment is to see that the Serbians remain homogeneous, that every possible life is conserved, that the children of the nation are educated, and kept healthy and strong for the re-building of the race.

It is in this great and glorious work that the Serbian Relief Fund is engaged.

During the early part of the war the Serbian Relief Fund despatched and maintained six fully equipped hospitals for wounded and typhus patients in Serbia itself.

After the invasion, the representatives of the Fund gave such assistance as was possible to the refugees on the great retreat. A hospital unit was established at Corfu for the care of sick and wounded, and Medical assistance has been sent to the Serbian Army, which lost all its sanitary and medical equipment during the retreat.

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## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

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Food has been sent in regular (although unfortunately inadequate) consignments to the Serbian Prisoners of War in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Clothing and food have been distributed to the refugees at every point where needed, and to the extent of the funds so generously subscribed by the people of this country, some at least of the miseries of the Serbian people have been alleviated.

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## WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW

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THE SERBIAN RELIEF FUND is now helping to administer, in co-operation with the French authorities, colonies of civilian exiles in Corsica, Corfu, Biserta, and elsewhere.

In addition, the Committee has undertaken, with the appreciation and approval of the Serbian Government, to receive a number of refugee children in Great Britain during the occupation of Serbia by the enemy, and to superintend their education here. Further, the Children's Branch of the Serbian Relief Fund is assisting to establish, in co-operation with Madame Pashitch, wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, an orphanage for children who have lost their parents during the War: this is a permanent measure of British aid. (Collecting cards and stamp books may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Children's Branch.)

All assistance, whether material or medical, is given *through British hands*, and in such manner as to ensure that there shall be no overlapping.

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## WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH HELP

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WHAT has already been done by the Serbian Relief Fund, great as it may be, is but a mere drop in an ocean of need.

As an instance: there is immediate need for large supplies of boots. Again, there are thousands of Serbian prisoners in Germany and Austria who need regular consignments of bread and clothing in greater quantities than has hitherto been found possible.

Food, Covering, Medical Aid—those elemental needs crop up wherever one looks into the case of Serbia. The bare necessities of life are lacking, and can only be supplied if you will give your aid.

Send the Serbian Relief Fund a big cheque, or a small parcel of clothing. Send something, big or little, so long as you do your part in salving Serbia.

Serbia deserves your aid because she has suffered for your sake, and has remained a steadfast ally throughout all her vicissitudes.

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## H.R.H. The Crown Prince of Serbia

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## A SACRED AND IMPEROUS TRUST

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“THROUGH all the trials of the war the spirit of Serbia was never defeated. Her gallantry was past praise, and it had placed on her Allies a sacred obligation.”

—LORD ROBERT CECIL  
in a speech at the luncheon given to  
M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Serbia,  
August 8, 1917.

★ ★ ★

“When the war comes to an end and the terms of peace will have to be considered, it will be one of the most sacred and imperious trusts laid on the shoulders of the Great Powers to see that their future freedom and security are adequately assured.”

—MR. ASQUITH.

★ ★ ★

Serbia has helped to save Europe. Serbia must herself be saved; but a land without a people cannot be a nation. Help to keep Serbia a nation by helping to save her people now. The Serbian Relief Fund is the authorised avenue of British aid.

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## A MORAL OBLIGATION

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A family massacred at Krivaia. This photograph is extracted with due acknowledgment from the Report upon Austro-Hungarian Atrocities, 'by a neutral investigator, R. A. Keiss, D.Sc., Professor at the University of Lausanne.'

**T**HHERE is a moral obligation to Serbia that every Briton should do something to fulfil.

Now when Serbia needs our aid, it is little to ask that we should give it generously and freely.

The SERBIAN RELIEF FUND — the organization that is helping to wipe off our debt to Serbia, needs aid in cash or in kind. The great work cannot go on without money. The Serbians gave life itself to help the Allies. Will you give your money to help Serbia, and thus keep Britain's honour bright?

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## A PERSONAL APPEAL

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TRY to imagine yourself in the place of a homeless Serb. Think how grateful you would be if a kindly people sent you food and clothing, and helped to bind up your hurts. The Serb is grateful—our workers have seen the tears of heartfelt gratitude well into the eyes of men, women and children.

You may be rich ; mayhap lying at your bank there are a hundred pounds that you can spare. Just a leaf from your cheque book, with pen and ink, and yours will be the warm heart that comes with a good deed done.

Perhaps you may not have so much to spare. Send then what you can, and whether it be cash, a spare blanket, socks, boots, clothing, imperishable food—it will be *your* gift, and you will have done something to repay a great national debt.

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